

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5415

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS MAPUTO 65

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH

SUBJ: PATRIOTIC FRONT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO

1. PATRIOTIC FRONT MEMBERS ROBERT MUGABE, JASON MOYO, GEORGE SILUNDIKA AND RUGARE GUMBO HELD AN HOUR LONG PRESS CONFERENCE IN MAPUTO AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 17. READING FROM PREPARED TEXT, MUGABE SAID THAT MEMBERS OF ZANU AND ZAPU HAD JUST CONCLUDED A TWO-DAY MEETING IN MAPUTO "TO DEFINE AND DEVELOP THEIR OBJECTIVES AND TO PLAN THEIR STRATEGY IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE."

2. AS A RESULT OF MEETING, MUGABE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT TEN-MEMBER COORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE LEADERS OF ZAPU AND ZANU "AND OTHERS." THE PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE "COMMITTEE
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WOULD BE TO "COORDINATE AND IMPLEMENT JOINTLY AGREED UPON PROPOSALS, AS WELL AS TO PROCEED TO STUDY ANY IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR THE REORGANIZATION OF ZIPA."

3. MUGABE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOALS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN THIS PHASE OF THE STRUGGLE WOULD BE:

- TO LIQUIDATE IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM, THUS PROVOKING THE COLLAPSE OF THE RACISTS AND MINORITY REGIME OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA;

- TO LAY FOUNDATION FOR CREATION OF NATIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC STATE OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE;

- TO ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION, CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR A SOCIAL REVOLUTION; AND

- TO GUARANTEE NATIONAL PEACE, SECURITY, EQUAL RIGHTS AND HAPPINESS FOR ALL ZIMBABWEANS.

4. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AT CONCLUSION OF MUGABE'S PRESENTATION, FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED;

A. GENEVA CONFERENCE AND IVOR RICHARD'S AFRICAN SHUTTLE: MOYO SAID THAT THE UK HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT GENEVA AND THAT RICHARD HAD NOT PUT IN WRITING ANY OF HIS CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR SOLVING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. MOYO SAID THAT THE FRONT WOULD NOT CONSIDER THE UK PROPOSALS UNLESS RICHARD PUT THEM IN WRITING. ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTEGRATED DEFENSE FORCE COMPOSED OF ZIPA INSURGENTS AND RHODESIAN REGULARS, MOYO DECLARED: "MR. RICHARD HAS NOT YET GIVEN US HIS PROPOSAL. HE HAS EXPRESSED MANY IDEAS BUT OUR POSITION IS THE SAME AS WE EXPRESSED IT IN GENEVA. DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WE MUST HAVE IN OUR HANDS THE SECURITY OF ZIMBABWE. OUR FORCES WILL BE IN CHARGE

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OF THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY."

B. REORGANIZATION AND STATUS OF ZIPA: ALTHOUGH MUGABE REFUSED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS ABOUT THE REORGANIZATION OF ZIPA, HE SAID THE NEW COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD BE GUIDED IN ITS TASK BY THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE MUST BE THE BASIS FOR UNITY AMONG THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS. HOWEVER, MUGABE ADDED THAT "THE ARMY IS AN ORGAN OF THE PARTY. THE PARTY IS SUPREME AND IS ABOVE AND OVER ALL EXISTING ORGANS. NEVERTHELESS, THE ARMY IS ALSO A POLITICAL ORGAN."

C. ACTIONS OF THE U.S. AND GREAT BRITAIN: MUGABE ACCUSED THE BRITISH OF SUPPORTING MUZOREWA AND OF ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DURING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. MOYO ACCUSED THE U.S. AND UK OF CONTINUING TO TRY TO SAFEGUARD THEIR OWN CAPITALIST INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AS A RESULT, MOYO SAID "THE ENGLISH AND AMERICANS ARE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH WHAT WE CONSIDER POLITICALLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENUINE)

GOVERNMENT OF THE AMJORITY IN ZIMBABWE. THE ENGLISH AND THE AMERICANS ARE MORE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE OPINION OF VORSTER AND SMITH THAN WITH THE VIEWS OF THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS."

E. ZUPO: MUGABE SAID ZUPO WAS THE BLACK PUPPET VOICE OF IAN SMITH AND DENOUNCED THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH WERE EVEN REMOTELY THINKING ABOUT ALLOWING THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHEN IT RECONVENED.

4. EMBASSY IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN COPY OF MUGABE STATEMENT AND WILL SEND TO DEPARTMENT WHEN RECEIVED.
CARSON

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Message Attributes

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